

## Lester A. Sippel

12-11-97

The funeral for Lester A. Sippel, 81, Groton, was held Wednesday at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton, with the Rev. Craig Grams officiating.

Burial was in the Groton Union Cemetery, Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel of Groton was in charge of arrangements.

He died Sunday, Dec. 7, 1997, at St. Luke's Midland Regional Medical Center.

Lester A. Sippel was born November 1, 1916, to Albert and Bertha (Johnson) Sippel in Riverside Township near Groton. He attended rural schools in Riverside Township and went to Groton High School. He served a year with the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1936 before returning to Groton and graduating from high school in 1937. During World War II he worked at a shipyard in Vancouver, Wash. He returned to South Dakota in 1945 to farm with his brothers.

He married Opal Grote on November 8, 1950, at Aberdeen. The couple farmed in Shelby Township near Houghton. She died in 1951 and he continued to live on the farm.

He married Hilda Fliehs at Groton, on February 23, 1967. They lived on the farm until 1978, when he retired and they moved into Groton.

He was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Feather & Fin Sportsmen Club and Groton Kiwanis Club. He was honored as Volunteer of the Year in 1995 for his work in the concession stand at the baseball park, which he dearly enjoyed. He brought enjoyment to many community members with his talent of spinning a yarn at the local coffee shop. His greatest enjoyment in life was spending time with his grandchildren. Another joy in his life was showing Charolais cattle. He and his wife were honored as Charolais Family of the Year in 1977.

Survivors include his wife of Groton; three stepsons, Duane (Rhonda) Fliehs, Darrel (Mary Kay) Fliehs and Dale Fliehs, all of Groton;



two stepdaughters, Diane (Ross) Hickenbotham, Aberdeen, and Sharon (Mike) Dell, Rapid City; three brothers, Arnold Sippel, Emery Sippel and Ralph Sippel, all of Groton; one sister, Edith Hughes, Billings, Mont; 13 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and special friends, Mr. and Mrs. Bing Miller.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, one infant son, one infant daughter, one grandchild and one sister.

Casketbearers were Jeffrey Fliehs, Jordan Fliehs, Ryan Fliehs, Richard Fliehs, Scott Hickenbotham, Chad Dell, Marc Sippel and Monte Sippel.